News release

23 February 2007

Torrential rain in Zimbabwe as Favio decays

High winds associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Favio have now dissipated as the storm has made landfall, but torrential rain continues to fall across southern Africa.

Although Favio tracked south of the flood-stricken Zambezi River, several of its tributaries flow from the mountainous regions of north-east Zimbabwe, which is now experiencing the heaviest rainfall associated with the remnants of the storm. Hence, further flooding is possible in the Zambezi basin.

Forecasters are continuing to monitor the situation over the Indian Ocean, with further heavy rain and potential tropical cyclone development over the coming days.

The south-west Indian Ocean regional tropical cyclone forecasting centre is on the French island of La Réunion. Forecasters there use information from a number of centres, including the Met Office, to provide essential information during the tropical cyclone season, which runs from November to April.

Notes:

The Met Office provides forecast information on severe weather to government departments to help deal with its impacts. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development are responsible for issuing advice to British Nationals in Mozambique and other countries overseas. These departments are assisting UK-based relief agencies in their work already under way to help the 120,000 people affected by the recent floods.

The Met Office is now providing valuable forecast information to humanitarian agencies and the insurance industry, through the Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) service. Met Office models predict the paths of tropical cyclones, such as Favio giving advanced notice for mitigating action. The probability of heavy rain and strong winds in association with tropical cyclones throughout the world, form another crucial part of the TSR service.

Latest forecast track from Météo France

Tropical Storm Risk

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